



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Urban Edge Housing Corporation, Roxbury, MA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Urban Edge Housing Corporation was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Urban Edge will clean up a site in Jackson Square, an urban area that lies at the intersection of the Roxbury (population 23,823) and Jamaica Plains neighborhoods of Boston. The site is in a federally designated Empowerment Zone. Twenty-four percent of area families live below the poverty level, and the local unemployment rate is 7.5 percent. Sixty-three percent of residents are African-American and 25 percent are Hispanic. Once the site is cleaned up, it will be redeveloped with



Cleanup Grant

New
2008

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Urban Edge Housing Corporation for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to clean up a three-quarter-acre parcel at 1542-1542A Columbus Avenue in Roxbury. The site is contaminated primarily with metals. Grant funds will be used to excavate up to 1,400 cubic yards of soil, transport and dispose of soil, and support community involvement activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1424

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Urban Edge Housing Corporation, MA
617-989-9313

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

affordable housing and retail and office space. This redevelopment is expected to create an estimated 47 permanent jobs and generate an estimated \$50,000 in new property taxes annually. Cleanup and redevelopment of the Columbus Avenue parcel are a key part of the Jackson Square development, which is expected to create construction and permanent jobs, and generate more than \$1 million in property taxes annually.